



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,632	04/17/2006	Jean-Luc Dabi	GER-0711	3478
23413	7590	08/24/2007		
CANTOR COLBURN, LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			EXAMINER OLSON, LARS A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/541,632	Applicant(s) DABI, JEAN-LUC	
	Examiner Lars A. Olson	Art Unit 3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaerlan (US 5,795,103) in view of Cessou (US 4,195,653).

Gaerlan discloses an installation for the retrieval of a pollutant fluid from a tank within a sunken ship, as shown in Figures 1-5, that is comprised of a means for introducing pressurized water, defined as Part #75, into a tank of a sunken ship, as shown in Figures 4 and 5, a means for delivering a pollutant fluid to an outside of said tank, defined as Part #34, a connecting pipe, defined as Part #24, from a surface ship, defined as Part #70, that connects with a means for delivering water into said tank, as shown in Figure 4, and a plurality of fixed pipes, defined as Parts #22 and 32, that are positioned within said tank, as shown in Figure 5, where first ends of said fixed pipes are located at a level of corners of said tank, as shown in Figure 4, and second ends of said fixed pipes are attached to couplings, defined as Parts #28 and 38, that are housed within compartments, defined as Parts #26 and 46.

Gaerlan, as set forth above, discloses all of the features claimed except for the use of pipe valves in combination with fixed pipes and connecting pipes.

Cessou discloses an installation for the retrieval of a pollutant fluid from a tank within a sunken ship, as shown in Figures 1-5, that includes pipe valves, defined as Parts #42a-b in Figure 3, that are each attached to a fixed pipe that extends into a section of a sunken ship and a connecting pipe that functions as a means for delivery of pressurized water, where said valves can be remotely controlled from a water surface location, as described in lines 1-6 of column 5.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to utilize a pipe valve to connect a pair of pipes, as taught by Cessou, in place of the couplings of the installation as disclosed by Gaerlan for the purpose of providing an installation for the retrieval of a pollutant fluid from a tank within a sunken ship with safety shut-off valves to prevent against pollution discharge in the event of uncoupled pipe connections.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-8 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cessou (US 4,287,903), Kruger et al. (US 3,890,796), Rolleman

Art Unit: 3617

(US 3,831,387), Bartlett (US 2,363,488) and Zoll (US 2,336,148) disclose installations for the retrieval of water or pollutant fluids from within sunken ships.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

August 20, 2007

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
8/20/07